STEVE ROGERS CAPTAIN AMERICA®

MARVEL

#19

SPENCER
CATES
PINA
GUINALDO
ROSENBERG

Super-Soldier. Avenger. Agent of Hydra. He is...

Steve ★ Rogers
CAPTAIN AMERICA

WARNING! Read this issue AFTER SECRET EMPIRE #7

A Cosmic Cube transformed Steve Rogers, Captain America, into the ultimate Hydra sleeper agent. After months of careful manipulation, Steve Rogers took control of S.H.I.E.L.D. and used a moment of international crisis to claim the country for Hydra.

In the early days of his reign, Rogers ruled with an iron fist but tried to show mercy where he could, and pawned off the dirtiest work to trusted members of his inner circle. But after the death of Madame Hydra and an assassination attempt by Sharon Carter, the love of Steve's life, that's all about to change...

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IN EVERY WAR, THERE'S A PRICE TO PAY.

WE SET IT FOR OURSELVES.

IT'S DETERMINED BY HOW *FAR* WE'RE WILLING TO GO--

--WHAT WE'RE WILLING TO *DO*--

--TO SEE VICTORY.

TO BE PROVEN *WORTHY*.

I THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD THE COSTS.

I TOLD MYSELF IT WAS WORTH IT.

THAT IT WAS *NECESSARY.*

AND THAT WE WOULD BE REWARDED FOR ALL THAT WE ENDURED, IN THE END.

BUT THIS PRICE IS TOO GREAT. NOTHING COULD BE WORTH LOSING YOU--

--ELISA.

EARLIER.

MORE WINE FOR THE TABLE?

YES, THANK Y--

NONE FOR *HIM*, THANK YOU. *I* WILL TAKE A GLASS.

HAIL HYDRA, MA'AM.

MMHMM, THANK YOU.

ELISA. I AM PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF HAVING A GLASS OF WINE. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT TAKES TO GET ME DRUNK? MY METABOLISM IS--

YOUR MIND NEEDS TO BE SHARP BEFORE THE ONSET OF WAR, DARLING. I NEED YOU WITH YOUR EYES OPEN FOR WHAT'S TO COME.

WHAT... ARE YOU TELLING ME HERE, ELISA?

ONLY THAT... ONLY THAT WHAT IS COMING NEXT YOU WILL BE FACING ***ALONE***.

STEVE ROGERS AGAINST THE WORLD...

...HAS A RATHER NICE RING TO IT, YES?

ALONE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WE HAVE ARMIES AND A VERITABLE BATTALION OF SUPERHUMAN ALLIES AT OUR SIDE. I HAVE YOU! WHAT COULD POSSIBLY--

THIS IS A WAR...YOU CANNOT COUNT ON THESE THINGS. ARMIES FALL, FRIENDS TURN...

IN WAR, AS IN LIFE... NOTHING LASTS FOREVER, STEVEN.

EXCEPT HYDRA.

THAT'S RIGHT, STEVEN.

EVERYTHING BUT THAT...

HAIL HYDRA.

THIS WAS ALL YOU EVER WANTED. AND JUST AS WE STOOD ON THE VERGE--

--THEY TOOK YOU FROM ME.

NOW I FEEL LOST.

ABANDONED.

ALONE.

TO HEL WITH YOU!

EXCUSE ME?

I'M JUST NOT DRINKING RIGHT NOW.

YOU REFUSE TO SHARE A DRINK WITH AN OLD FRIEND?

AYE, THEN IT IS TRUE... WE ARE DOOMED.

CARE TO *EXPLAIN* THAT REMARK, THOR?

YOU *KNOW* THAT IS NO LONGER MY NAME.

AND I SHOULD HAVE NO NEED TO EXPLAIN IT.

THERE WAS A TIME, NOT LONG PAST, WHEN THE *MIGHTY THOR* AND THE HONORABLE *CAPTAIN AMERICA*...

...WOULD SHARE MANY A DRINK TOGETHER IN CELEBRATION OF A BATTLE WELL FOUGHT AS AVENGERS! AS COMRADES, AND AS FRIENDS!

OR EVEN JUST TO CELEBRATE THE DAY OF THE WEEK NAMED FOR ME...

AND WHY DO YOU DRINK NOW? FOR A "BATTLE WELL FOUGHT" AGAINST OUR ENEMIES AT THE MOUNT?

BECAUSE THE WAY I HEARD IT, THOR, YOU ACTUALLY HELPED THEM ESCAPE TO--

BOOM!

THAT IS NOT MY NAME!

I AM THE ODINSON.

THE TRUE THOR HAS BEEN BANISHED TO ANOTHER WORLD-- BY YOU. AND BY THE WORDS OF MY FATHER, STEVE ROGERS, I ASK YOU TO BELIEVE THIS. IF YOU--

"BELIEVE"?

YOU DON'T EVEN BELIEVE IN *YOURSELF.*

THAT HAMMER OF *YOURS* HAS BEEN SITTING OUT ON THE WASHINGTON MALL, UNGUARDED, UNMOVED AND UNCHALLENGED FOR *WEEKS NOW!*

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN TO SEE IT? HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU TRIED TO PICK IT UP?

IT'S... IT IS NOT MINE.

NO. IT'S NOT.

AND IF YOU HAVE SUCH STRONG OBJECTIONS TO THE WAY I AM RUNNING THINGS AROUND HERE... THE NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO GET DRUNK AND RAISE YOUR VOICE TO ME TO MAKE THEM HEARD?

YOU'D BETTER MAKE DAMN SURE YOU HAVE THAT HAMMER IN YOUR HAND.

YOU WERE THE ONLY PERSON WHO EVER SAW ME AS I TRULY AM--

--THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW THE TRUTH I LIVED.

THE ONLY OTHER PERSON WHO COULD REMEMBER THE WORLD THAT WAS.

THE ONE WHO SAW THROUGH THE MADNESS--

--AND HELPED ME FIGHT IT BACK.

"TELL ME, DO YOU MISS IT?"

MISS WHAT, SHARON?

ALL OF IT. YOUR FRIENDS. THE AVENGERS. YOU KNOW, THE ***REAL*** AVENGERS. YOUR OLD LIFE.

NO.

THE *MISSION* IS WHAT MATTERS. *HYDRA* IS WHAT MATTERS.

IT'S TIME THE WORLD GREW UP.

HEH...

...GREEN'S NOT A GOOD LOOK ON YOU, STEVE.

I WISH YOU COULD SEE THE WORLD THE WAY I--

WAS THIS THE CELL YOU PUT RICK JONES IN?

I ONLY ASK BECAUSE YOUR LITTLE PEP TALKS ABOUT "LOYALTY" AND "THE MISSION" DIDN'T SEEM TO DO HIM ANY GOOD EITHER.

SHARON... YOU DON'T SEE WHAT I SEE. AND I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO. BUT HYDRA IS THE FUTURE. WE CAN FIX THINGS-- MAKE THIS WORLD INTO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL.

OOOOOH, I GET IT...

WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO, RIGHT? NO AMOUNT OF UGLY IS UNACCEPTABLE WHEN YOU'RE CHASING SOMETHING "BEAUTIFUL."

THAT EXPLAINS ALL THE BODIES.

HE'D BE PROUD OF YOU, YOU KNOW.

THE *RED SKULL*.

HOW *DARE* YOU COMPARE ME TO THAT--

YOU WEAR THAT COSTUME LIKE YOU'RE SOMEHOW THIS GREAT LEADER, WHEN ALL YOU DO IS ALIENATE, DIVIDE AND PERSECUTE THE PEOPLE WHO NEED YOU--EXACTLY THE WAY HE DID.

YOU THINK YOU'RE DIFFERENT BUT YOU'RE NOT! LOOK AT YOU!

YOU CAN DRESS THIS UP ANY WAY YOU WANT, BUT STEVE... YOU ARE STILL A *FASCIST*.

JUST LIKE *HIM*.

YOU'RE RIGHT...

...THAT WAS RICK'S CELL.

BUT NOW IT'S YOURS.

GET USED TO IT.

I AM GOING TO BRING YOU BACK, ELISA.

I AM GOING TO RESTORE EVERYTHING THAT WAS TAKEN FROM US.

I WILL SET THIS WORLD RIGHT, I PROMISE YOU.

I HAVE PAID THE PRICE...

...NOW COMES THE *WAR.*

CAPTAIN AMERICA #25

TWO HEROES. ONE MANTLE. NO QUARTER.

NEXT

SECRET EMPIRE #7

SECRET EMPIRE #8

ZONE